WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Additional Flights by IA and AI

1314. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India propose to introduce additional flights on the existing routes; and

(b) if so, the details of proposal mooted in that regard for 2004-05, particularly direct flights from Delhi to all State Capitals of the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air India proposes to add two additonal frequencies on the routing Mumbai/Frankfurt/Los Angeles/Frankfurt/Mumbai with B747-400 aircraft effective November 2004. Presently, Air India operates three frequencies on the above routing. It is also proposed to add one frequency with B747-400 aircraft on the routing Mumbai/Delhi/London/Delhi/Mumbai effective November 2004. Presently, Air India operates two London terminators.

Indian Airlines has plans to increase the capacity/frequency on some of the domestic and international routes in the winter schedule 2004-05 subject to availability of aircraft capacity. Indian Airlines & Alliance provide services airlinking Delhi to Guwahati and Imphal. Indian Airlines & Alliance Air have no immediate plans to provide direct flights from Delhi to other State capitals of North East.

Purchase of Carpets by AI

1315. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has suffered a loss of more than Rs. 2 crore on purchase of non-existent carpets from a US company sometime back;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CVC has indicted the present Commercial Director and others involved in the purchase of carpets for causing loss of revenue to Air India; and

(c) if so, what are the details of CVC report and the action taken by Government against guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India suffered a loss of USD 549,168.48 equivalent to INR 197.70 lakhs due to non-supply of carpets by M/s. Pennsylvania Woven Carpet Mills of USA in 1994-95.

(b) and (c) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has entrusted the investigation in the matter to Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Air India Ltd. in October 2003.

GoM on restructuring of Airports

1316. SHRI BALWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers was constituted for restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(b) whether the Group has since finalised the details of restructuring and modernisation of these airports as per international standards;

(c) if so, the details of the plan; and

(d) whether FDI upto 49 per cent only is to be invited for modernisation and restructuring as per the Government's decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far, with the approval of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), Financial Consultant, Legal Consultant and Global Technical Advisor have been appointed. A document of invitation to Register Expression of Interest (ITROEI) has been finalised and issued. Maximum limit of Foreign Direct Investment has been capped at 49% and minimum 25% equity in the Joint Venture Group is to be held by Indian entities. Maximum permissible equity participation by Indian scheduled airlines has been increased from 5% to 10%. It has also been decided to increase the period of mandatory deputation of employees